

Mr. Garrison, Please observe that our Convention is not an Illinois Convention but a "Western Women's Convention". Eight Western States will be represented.

Chicago, Aug. 16. 1869.

My dear Mr. Garrison,

46 I have just read your note to our mutual friend, Mrs. Doggett, in which you decline to attend our Convention. The affectionate and husbandly reason you give for your refusal to come to us ought to save you from further importunity on our part. I am sure I fully appreciate it. But our need of you is so urgent, that I venture one more appeal to you, daring to hope that it may be possible to commit the care of your beloved patient to some safe nurse, for at least one week.

Our Convention comes off on

the 9th and 10th of this next month, September. We have few eminent people in the West, and none who carry such weight intellectually or morally as the New England leaders, of whom you have such a brilliant company. I seem to be doing most of the active work, aided almost alone by our dear Mrs. Daggett, who is to me both an inspiration and a benediction. I have held Conventions almost weekly, and sometimes twice a week all over the country in the West, and am engaged every week in various places until the middle of October. You know how exhausting this is. Like the wall-builders in Nehemiah's time, I am compelled to defend myself with one hand, from a hostile press,

and to build up the cause with
the other. My heart is in it. The
limitations, subjection, deprivations,
ignorance, sufferings and sorrows
of women lie on my soul like
personal griefs. I want this move-
ment of women for freedom to go
forward. I want our Chicago
Convention to radiate an influ-
ence throughout the West that
will vitalize the movement,
and give it dignity and power.

If we could have the in-
terest of the New England Women
en Suffrage Assn. expressed
in the sending of two delegates
to our meeting — and those two
could be yourself and Lucy
Stone — it would aid us im-
mensely. We look to Massa-
chusetts as the brain and con-
science of the country; and
the announcement in the pa-

pers that Boston was sufficiently interested in our work to send two delegates to represent her would give us great influence. I have written Lucy Stone, and now I am also going to write C. F. Whipple, imploring that this may be done. We have addresses partly promised from several eminent Western people - and there is no end of political men who signify their willingness to help us. But the movement is as much a moral as it is a political movement - and we have few politicalicians with us who carry any weight morally. Prof. Haven of the Chicago Theological Seminary, and Dr. Edward Beecher

er (Congregationalists) Robt. College (Unitarian) and Rev. Ed. Eggleston (~~the~~ "Penthouse" of the N. Y. Independent) are members for Executive Committee. You see we are eminently "respectable," even in the eyes of the West.

Now, my dear Mr. Garrison, will it not be possible for you to leave your dear wife for one week, and come to our help? Mrs. Doggett goes to Salem, Mass., this week to attend the annual meeting of the Academy of Science. She proposes to see you before her return. So, please do not come to a decision in the negative until she has an opportunity to plead the case with you. If it is within the bounds of possibility, we must have you

with us.

I am pained to hear of Mrs. Garrison's poor health. I have never known her, but her noble conduct, so heroic and grand at that time, when she was a young wife, and the friendish hostility of Boston to the Anti-Slavery Cause sought your destruction, impressed me at the time very deeply. I always recall it when I hear her name mentioned.

Hoping to see you in Chicago at no distant day, when we desire your advice on many points, and with very ^{kind} regards from my husband and myself, I am
Yrs. truly
Mary A. Livermore